

And hospital emergency rooms such as the one at Valley Presbyterian in Van Nuys may see a 5% to 10% increase in traffic during the summer.

"Arguments, bodily injuries, assaults, accidents . . . people become much more irritable and prone to getting into fights in the summer-time," said Dr. Dennis Kelly, 42, chief of emergency services at Valley Presbyterian, whose staff has seen an increase in drug abuse-related injuries and domestic violence, including child abuse, in the last few years.